
Autobiography of MAXEY HESTER

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“Maxey Hester

Maxey Hester, Montezuma, Iowa, brings to the Hall of Fame a long history of competition activity and industry involvement. As a teenager, he built and flew scores of rubber-powered free flight models. However, World War II interrupted his modeling career when he joined the Navy at age 17. Following the war, he started both a family and a business (finish carpentry) in Des Moines, Iowa. It was not until 1953 that he returned to modeling, flying control line.

In 1954, he discovered RC, using a single channel system designed by E. Paul Johnson. In 1958, he moved to reeds and flew them until 1965 when he switched to proportional. Between 1954 and 1987, he flew in hundreds of local, regional, national and international events in both pattern, pylon and scale competition. His credentials include 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishes in F4C Scale World Championships. The list of national wins is far too lengthy to list here.

Maxey's list of designs includes over a dozen scale, pattern, sport and pylon models. The Zlin Akroat, Ryan STA, Komet, and Citabria are but a few. A number of these can still be found on the competition circuit today.

Maxey served as a contest director both locally and nationally. He was a charter member and first president of the Des Moines Modelaires RC Club and a charter member of NMPRA.

In 1967, Maxey became plant manager for Sig Manufacturing Co. Inc. Following the death of Glen Sigafoose, the company's founder, he became Vice President. He always has been a “hands on” manager and is very much involved in the company's operations. He is an active air show pilot in the full scale circuit and, along with his wife Hazel, flies the Sig “air force” of some seven aircraft. These include three famous Spacewalkers. Maxey is very active in flying youngsters in the EAA Young Eagles Program.